

PUBLIC GRANTS TO GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Schedule of the loans, grants, and bonuses given by the Dominion Government, the Government of Ontario, and port of Quebec in aid of the Grand Trunk Railway, main line, and of the subsidiary lines, comprised in its system and worked under its sole control:—

The Dominion Government loaned the G. T. R.	15,142,633
The Dominion Government gave a bonus to Victoria Bridge.....	300,090
The Dominion Government gave a bonus to the Brantford line.....	39,744
The Dominion Government gave a bonus to the Georgian Bay.....	39,744
The Dominion Government gave a bonus to the Waterloo Junction.....	32,800
The Dominion Government gave a bonus to the Northern & Pacific Junction.....	320,000
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to the Brantford & Port Burwell line.....	68,000
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to G. T. R. & Georgian Bay line.....	336,000
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to London Huron & Bruce line.....	178,630
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to the Northern line.....	196,188
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to the Hamilton & North Western line.....	565,020
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to Midland line.....	168,350
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to Grand Junction line.....	224,660
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to the Toronto & Nipissing line.....	105,212
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to the Lake Simcoe Junction line.....	53,000
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to the Victoria line.....	312,000
The Ontario Government gave a bonus to the Whitby & Port Perry line.....	94,957
The Quebec Government gave a bonus to the Montreal & Champlain line.....	150,000
The Quebec Government gave a bonus Beauharnois Junction line.....	179,073
Total of Bonuses paid the Grand Trunk by the Dominion Govt. and those of Ontario and Quebec.....	\$4,363,378
Loan to G. T. R. from Dominion Government.....	15,142,633
Total financial assistance given to G. T. R. by Canadian Government.....	\$19,506,011

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The opening of Parliament at Ottawa on the 7th instant will provide topics for public discussion for, probably, a few months, though a short session is probable. It is doubtful whether the modern custom of making the day for the opening of Parliament dependent on the will of the Premier is as wise as the old English practice of calling it on a fixed date every year. The original reason, however, for this fixity of date was a consequence of Parliament, in its early days, being rather a judicial than a legislative body. When, about the time of Henry III., parliament had developed its present functions and powers, the old custom was relaxed, and members were called to annual sessions, or more frequently, at the will of the king. On one occasion only half the members were summoned to parliament, in order to allow the other half to attend to harvesting! This scheme is worth considering, it would save half the cost of each Session, reduce the talking to more reasonable limits, and show that the country

could get along very well with a parliament of one-half the present size. What, however, would be a really valuable innovation would be some arrangement by which the sessions would be shortened in duration. The custom of having a long debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne might well be abolished. The reply is merely a formal affair, and has usually very little connection, sometimes none at all, with the matters discussed by members when that opportunity offers. The excellent example set this session will, we trust, be followed in future ones. The mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne were commendably moderate in their language in criticising the policy and record of the Opposition. Mr. Marcell, a French Canadian member, elicited general marks of approval when he appealed to the House of Commons to take measures to avoid all race crises and occasions for racial friction.

The members of the Government are much to be commended for their readiness in having their departmental reports ready to lay before the House on the first day, when a business session was held. The Opposition, too, deserves praise for abstaining from entering upon a long debate at the opening of business. The new Leader, Mr. Borden, said, "The Opposition is a business one," a phrase, which, if they live up to, and if the Government emulates in this respect, will add materially to the efficiency, as well as the dignity, of the House of Commons.

The new Speaker, Mr. Brodeur, is to be congratulated on his elevation to a position for which he has been in training some years as Deputy Speaker. The House recognizes his eminent fitness for the dignified and responsible position.

The Ontario Legislature was opened on the 6th instant. The "veteran, Sir Oliver Mowat, made a lengthy address on the Queen's death, the accession of the King and allied topics. Ontario proposes to make a grant of land to each member of a Canadian contingent on his return from South Africa. As an election will follow the close of the Ontario House, its proceedings will be largely affected by the proximity of the time when each member will have to give an account of his stewardship.

The total amount of the estimates laid before the Dominion Parliament for year 1901-2 fall considerably below the expenditures of 1900-1; both those on Consolidated Fund Account, and those chargeable to Capital. These are only preliminary, they are introduced in order to get the machinery into motion. At a later period the Supplementary estimates will, no doubt, be brought down as usual, in which it will be desirable to place a sum for reducing the debt, now that the revenue can spare a good sum for this purpose.